

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR.

27 October 1955

SUBJECT

Ministry for Heavy Industry: Lignite Supply
for the Third Quarter of 1955

NO. OF PAGES

1

**PLACE
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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 28 September 1955, the Marketing Department of the East German Council of Ministers issued an order to the effect that 80% of the winter fuel allocations for the East German population was to be delivered by 30 September 1955.
2. According to a memorandum of the Marketing Department - Coal in the Ministry for Heavy Industry, crude lignite deliveries during the 2nd quarter of 1955 were already 150,000 tons below what was to have been supplied for the population. This particular shortage was made up at the time by new allocations at the end of the quarter and also through making a supply of screened coal (Siebkohle) available. The population, however, was not particularly interested in buying screened coal.
3. Despite instructions to the DHZ Kohle to remedy the situation, the arrears in crude lignite deliveries continued to mount during July and August. A shortage of about 80,000 tons had accumulated to about 130,000 tons on 10 August 1955. By mid-September, the arrears from the 2nd quarter of the year, this meant that the population at large were 280,000 tons below plan by mid-August.
4. The Marketing Department - Coal considered weather conditions to have been the most important cause of the shortages. However the Department felt that the officials in the Main Administration for Lignite had not attacked the problem energetically enough. As of 1 October 1955, the Marketing Department had still not received any indication of measures decided upon by the Main Administration for making up the arrears.

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